

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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In the Matter of

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION)
VS. MOUNTAIN UTILITIES, INC.) CASE NO. 7858

O R D E R

On September 4, 1981, the Commission conducted a show cause hearing regarding Mountain Utilities, Inc., ("Mountain") to investigate four possible violations of the Commission's order in this case issued October 20, 1980. The Commission was concerned that Mountain was not complying with certain regulations in completing the construction authorized in the 1980 order.

Item three of the order scheduling the show cause hearing relates to the relocation of individual meters in contravention of Mountain's originally-submitted plans which were approved by this Commission in its order of October 20, 1980. The order in this case, dated November 3, 1981, issued as a result of the show cause hearing, expressly directed Mountain to extend new service lines from the distribution main to the point where the gas service enters the structure being served.

Mountain, by letter dated April 22, 1982, requested a variance of the Commission's order in this case, to relieve it from replacing the customers' service line from the distribution main to the point where the line enters the structure being served.

In requesting the variance, Mountain indicated that remaining funds are insufficient to completely reconstruct the distribution system and the customers' service lines.

Mountain further indicated that if granted the variance all existing customer lines would be properly tested by acceptable standards under the supervision of qualified persons.

FINDINGS IN THIS MATTER

The Commission, after consideration of the evidence of record and being advised, is of the opinion and finds that:

1. The funds remaining are insufficient to completely reconstruct Mountain's deteriorated gas distribution system and the customers' service lines. Further, that if the major portion of the distribution lines is not replaced, the present line loss of about 29 percent cannot be reduced to an acceptable level as required by the Commission.

2. The second ordering paragraph in the order in this case, dated November 3, 1981, should be amended by deleting "extend new service lines from the distribution main to the point where the gas service enters the structure being served," and substituting "shall install new service lines from the new distribution main to the point of the old metering location and provide an approved tie-in to customers' existing piping."

3. The National Fuel Gas Code, Part 4.1.4.(c), adopted by reference at 807 KAR 5.021, Section 4(1)(b), shall be used as the standard to properly test customers' existing service

lines. Part 4.1.4.(c) states "systems operating at a pressure of 1/2 psig or less when appliances are connected to the piping system, shall withstand a pressure of not less than 10.0 inches nor more than 14.0 inches water column for a period of not less than 10 minutes without showing any drop in pressure."

ORDERS IN THIS MATTER

Based upon the above-stated findings, the Commission HEREBY ORDERS that the language in the order in this case, dated November 3, 1981, which required that "Mountain Utilities, Inc. extend new service lines from the distribution main to the point where the gas service enters the structure being served," be and it hereby is amended to read, "Mountain Utilities, Inc., shall install new service lines from the new distribution main to the point of the old metering location and provide an approved tie-in to customers' existing piping."

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Mountain Utilities, Inc., shall provide the testing of the existing approved service lines to comply with the National Fuel Gas Code, Part 4.1.4.(c).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Mountain Utilities, Inc., shall furnish a qualified employee to inspect testing of all new customer service lines, meter installations, existing customer service lines, and customer house piping.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Mountain Utilities, Inc., shall maintain a record of said tests.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 12th day of May, 1982.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Marlin M. Voth
Chairman

Katherine Randall
Vice Chairman

Dennis Carrigan
Commissioner

ATTEST:

Secretary